

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3213

OET

November 25, 2009

RF
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2/3/6

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Multiple Cell Towers on Richmond Avenue and Signs Road, Richmond Avenue and Lander Avenue, and Travis Avenue and Merrymount Street, Staten Island, New York

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We have been made aware of a condition that exists at the above intersections which have large neighborhoods close by. Commercial buildings surrounding these intersections have a number of cell phone antennas placed on the roof of their structures. Some of these buildings are adjacent to a public elementary and intermediate school nearby. The Citizens groups in that area have been very concerned that the large concentration of cell phone antennas in their community may create high levels and concentrations of radiation that are harmful to the nearby residents.

I am aware that the Federal Communication Commission sets emission requirements for individual cell phone antennas as well as limits for radio wave exposure for human beings. As a result of the large number of antennas being grouped in a neighborhood and adjacent to the school, citizens and school children may be exposed to higher than normal levels of radiation.

Although requirements have been set for emissions from individual antennas, there appears to be no regulation regarding the effects of the grouping of antennas and the aggregate effect of multiple antenna emissions. It is unclear the long term effect that the radiation emitting from the multitude of antennas directly adjacent to this school will have on the children.

It is essential that staff from your Office of Engineering and Technology and/or your Enforcement Bureau conduct an immediate investigation and perform actual measurements of radiation exposure levels in these neighborhoods and around the school premises.

I would ask that measurements of radiation density be performed at the following intersections:

Richmond Avenue & Signs Road
Richmond Avenue & Lander Avenue
Travis Avenue & Merrymount Street

This action is essential to the well being of hundreds of citizens and children located in this area. I would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

STATEN ISLAND:
265 NEW DORP LANE
SECOND FLOOR
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306
(718) 351-1062

WASHINGTON, DC:
323 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3371

BROOKLYN:
8505 FOURTH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11209
(718) 630-5277

31 DEC 2009 RWD

Your agency has been most helpful in the past when we had a similar problem at the Our Lady Star of the Sea School on Staten Island. Your investigation helped allay fears that radiation levels in that community were too high. Thank you in advance for your immediate assistance with this matter and please inform me of the results of the testing and investigations when complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael E. Mahon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Congressman Michael E. Mahon
Member of Congress, NY-13



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Michael E. McMahon
U.S. House of Representatives
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McMahon:

Thank you for your letter requesting measurements of radiofrequency (RF) exposure levels at various locations near cellular base station antennas on Staten Island, New York, in response to apparent health concerns of citizens groups in the area.

I appreciate your ongoing concern for the safety of your constituents, and share your concern for the safety of all of our citizens, particularly as related to matters within the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission. I have asked the Chief of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology to look into this matter, and his response is attached.

If you have any remaining concerns, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosures



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Michael E. McMahon
U.S. House of Representatives
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McMahon:

This is in response to your letter to Chairman Genachowski requesting measurements of radiofrequency (RF) exposure levels at various locations near cellular base station antennas on Staten Island, New York, in response to apparent health concerns of citizens groups in the area. Chairman Genachowski has asked me to look into this matter and respond on his behalf.

I appreciate your ongoing concern for the safety of your constituents. As Acting Chairman Copps noted in his letter to you last May, for cellular directional sector antennas such as those used in these systems, only the area at the same height and within a distance of about 10-20 feet directly in front of the antenna has the potential to exceed the FCC RF exposure limits for the general public. These areas are small enough that they typically do not overlap when multiple antennas are present.

Since the antennas mentioned in your letter are on the roofs of commercial buildings, the exposure areas of potential concern are located outside of the buildings, well above the ground, and would not appear to be publicly accessible. The Commission's rules require that transmitting facilities consider the effects of other nearby facilities in determining their compliance with FCC RF exposure guidelines. In light of this, there is no reason to expect that the additive RF exposure from the cellular base stations might not comply with the FCC's RF exposure limits in any publicly accessible area. Still, I am enclosing a copy of *A Local Government Official's Guide to Transmitting Antenna RF Emission Safety: Rules, Procedures, and Practical Guidance* (also available at www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety). This guide provides useful information regarding what kinds of physical parameters would be indicators of possible violation of our guidelines, and might be useful for the concerned groups in those areas to identify possible violations at the antenna sites, or hopefully to gain reassurance that the sites are configured safely within FCC guidelines.

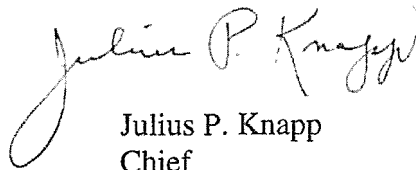
I regret that the Commission staff generally is not able to perform field RF measurements except when there is some indication that exposure limits may be exceeded. The staff took measurements at the Our Lady Star of the Sea School on Staten Island, for instance, to address discrepancies among measurements performed by others. The staff was gratified in that instance to confirm the previous analyses and measurements showing that exposure levels would be a

constituents could provide, upon reviewing the information in the enclosed guide, to further inform us on the circumstances at the Richmond and Travis Avenue locations.

Please be assured that the Commission is continually monitoring the issue of RF exposure and related health and safety concerns, both in the general terms relating to its regulations, and in individual cases where substantive concerns are raised.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julius P. Knapp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julius P. Knapp
Chief

Office of Engineering and Technology

Enclosure